

CALHOUN COUNTY

Honorable Jack W. Hughes

Calhoun County Courthouse
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Anniston, AL 36201
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www.yourcommunityfirst.org/cpc



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PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Community Collaboration
2. Parent and Guardian's
3. Mental Health /Juvenile Justice

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county.

Health - Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Child Health

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Last year's progress-developed and implemented a collaborative system for identifying and enrolling children in free and reduced cost insurance and health services
- Sustain efforts to include serving new births and people moving into the county
- Families will receive follow-up through home visitation services from appropriate agencies regarding continued eligibility and insurance coverage.

Child Health

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Build on existing teen pregnancy prevention and support services provided by Concern for Children, Inc., Quality of Life and Life and the Alabama Dept. of Public Health to reduce teen pregnancy rates in Calhoun County

Mental Health

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Last year's programs. The CPC round table discussion provided an opportunity to focus us on substance abuse prevention efforts towards a more universal population. The roundtable participants did not directly impact the number of juvenile arrested for drug violations, even though that was last year's goal.
- A collaborative group of CPC members accomplished a local assessment and made a plan for

reducing substance abuse among juveniles. This plan was submitted through the Prevention Systems Process.

- Continue to build on last year's collaborative efforts through regular contact and collaborative work between CPC agencies

Safety - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Safety

Policy Council Action Steps:

- The number of children entering foster care continues to be unacceptably high, therefore, our plan is to re-assess strategies in place through various agencies and adjust our strategies as needed to reduce the number of children in foster care
- Continue to work with Alabama's Partnership for Children in the Zero to Five Initiative to adopt and enhance the services in place to reduce foster care issues in the community

The need to create awareness among parents and citizens on children's issues, needs, and available resources

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Develop brochure on resources for meeting children's needs.
- Disseminate information to greatest number of families.
- Have brochure prepared and ready to go home by first report card.

Education - Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

High School Graduation

Policy Council Action Steps:

- The CPC has supported efforts to incorporate the Alabama Reading Initiative in all public school systems in Calhoun County
- Additional resources have been applied for through collaborative efforts to increase the number of tutors, mentors, and remedial support services provided through non-profit organizations, religious institutions and other partners in education.
- Public awareness efforts have been expanded to facilitate access to services provided by non-profits including Parent Project, First Steps, Next Start, Parents as Teachers, Boys and Girls Clubs, and Big Brothers/ Big Sisters, etc

Quality Education

Policy Council Action Steps:

- A collaborative effort was made with several agencies which included: Interfaith Ministries, Concern for Children, Inc. Kiwanis and other non-profit agencies to provide clothing, school supplies and other services for elementary school children.
- Expansion of school nurses has been developed and funds have been applied for by the Anniston City School system to continue to support this issue. The community has received statues regarding truancy. The community must continue to work toward reducing truancy rates

Early Care and

Education - Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Availability of child care

Policy Council Action Steps:

- CPC agency partners have worked collaboratively to develop a comprehensive plan for early care and education for children ages 0-5 in Anniston through partnership with Alabama's Partnership for Children and a grant through the Anniston Civil Justice Fund.
- The Community needs to implement the plan which has been developed. The plan includes encouraging licensing for all day care centers and locating funding sources to establish centers and help low income families pay for child care.

Quality of Child Care

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Training opportunities and parenting classes were provided through a grant from the West Anniston Foundation with services coordinated by Children Services, Inc.
- Children Services, Inc. provided 300 hours of development training free of charge to all legally operating day care centers.
- The community must continue to support strengthening of child care programs in Calhoun County through training and by implementing the 0-5 developed plan through the Anniston Civil Justice Fund.

Economic Security

- Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

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Parent Involvement and Skills - Parents and

guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Parents and Guardians

Policy Council Action Steps:

- The community launched a multi-media and resource development effort to provide and support parents within the county, especially Anniston through the Anniston Civil Justice Fund.
- There needs to be a continued media effort and the collaborative implementation of Parents as Teachers program and the Parent Project (offered as a prevention initiative under the name *Peak) (Parents Empowering All Kids).

Single Parent Homes

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Develop and implement *Peak support groups and Parents as Teachers support groups specifically for single parents beginning within the city of Anniston

Policy Recommendation

1. The Education System has provided a clear definition of truancy thereby facilitating more effective and uniform measures for addressing truancy within the county.
2. Continue to address and support the uniform measures established to reduce truancy issues in the county.